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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

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BRIEFING  
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Amnesty International: 1,000 Convicts Executed in US since

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Climate Change Conference to Discuss Kyoto Agreement in  
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#### BRIEFING

**Erdogan Attends Euro-Med Summit:** Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in Barcelona to attend the 10th EU-Mediterranean (Euromed) Summit, met with the Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, Lebanese PM Fuad Siniora and Israeli vice PM Ehud Olmert on Monday, papers report. The leaders discussed the future of the Middle East after the opening of the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza Strip, and economic cooperation. Erdogan also met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. He told the press after the meeting that Turkey and Germany will continue to support each other in economically and politically, walking together hand-in-hand toward the future. Erdogan noted that he invited Merkel to Turkey, and that he will pay a visit to Germany after hosting the German Chancellor in Turkey. Merkel said she accepted the invitation. In response to a question, Merkel said that the German government's policy on Turkey's EU membership is based on the EU decisions taken earlier. The two leaders spoke on economic cooperation and the integration of Turks living in Germany, according to reports. Reports also say that EU could not agree over the definition of terrorism. Agreement on a Code of Conduct on struggling against terrorism was blocked after the Arab states asked for a reference justifying 'resistance movements' in the final communiqué. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said the sticking point was a question of wording, stressing that all sides agreed on the fundamental need to fight terrorism.

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British Prime Minister Tony Blair, co-hosting the gathering as current EU president, focused in his speech largely on combating terrorism and preventing illegal immigration. The head of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell said that Arab leaders' presence would have presented 'a stronger political commitment.' The Euromed summit talks brought together EU member countries with Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, and Tunisia.

**Erdogan's Office Rejects Borowiec Report in WT:** On Monday, the Office of the Prime Minister rejected as 'total fabrication' a report in The Washington Times (WT) that the Turkish military has warned the AK Party government by a secret letter over Erdogan's remarks with regard to

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religious issues, papers report. A statement from the prime ministry said that the report written by Andrew Borowiec in the WT is 'groundless, and cannot be taken seriously.' 'We consider this report as a malicious accusation that targets Turkey's unity. This report is a product of the systematic campaign conducted by some networks of interest to incite separatism in Turkey,' the statement said. It stressed that the WT and Borowiec will be declared 'hired guns lacking professionalism, ethics and honor' if they cannot prove their allegations. Erdogan had warned the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) earlier this month to take into consideration the views of 'Ulema' (Muslim theologians) when adopting decisions on critical issues such as the ban on women's headwear in 'public places' in Turkey.

**Cicek Denies CIA Interrogated Sakka:** Dailies report that Justice Minister Cemil Cicek denied on Monday claims that Louai Sakka, a leading ringleader of the terrorist al-Qaida, was interrogated by CIA operatives in a prison in Istanbul. 'Sakka has only been visited by his sister and nephew, as well as his lawyer. He has not met any other foreigners,' Cicek said. Sakka's lawyer Osman Karahan insisted that CIA members interrogated Sakka for four hours, adding that he

will disclose soon the names of captives the CIA abducted from Turkey on planes.

**Bryza to Visit Nicosia in December:** Independent Greek daily "Fileleftheros" said in a news commentary on Monday that US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matt Bryza is expected to visit Nicosia in the first half of December. Nicosia believes that Americans are both attempting to come closer to the Republic of Cyprus, and to 'upgrade' the statelet in the north. A recent meeting of Secretary Rice with Turkish Cypriot leader Talat in Washington is seen by the Cypriot government as an indication of American intentions. Nicosia believes that the Bryza visit will be a good opportunity to display the views of the Cypriot government. It is unclear if Bryza will visit Athens and Ankara. His predecessors used to visit the European states slated for the EU presidency. Austria will take over the post from Britain on January 1. Diplomatic sources said that such a visit will be useful if the issue of EU regulations for the Turkish Cypriots is not resolved under the British presidency, said the article.

**Jandarma Officers Suspected of Semdinli Bombings Arrested:** A court ordered the arrest of Ali Kaya and Ozcan Ildeniz, jandarma officers implicated in the November 9 bombing of a bookstore in Semdinli in the southeastern province of Hakkari, on a request from the prosecutor investigating the incident. The bombing had triggered angry protests in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast. The two men were briefly detained on November 9, but freed pending an investigation.

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The Turkish parliament last week conducted a full investigation into the bombing in which one person was killed. The officers were almost lynched by local people after the bombing as they tried to flee. Police found in their car weapons and maps, including one pinpointing the bombed bookshop. Kaya and Ildeniz denied any wrongdoing, saying they were only passing through Semdinli when the blast occurred.

**EU Warns Ankara on Slow Reforms Process, Police Violence:** EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn expressed concern at the 20th Turkey-EU Joint Consultation Committee meeting on Monday over the use of excessive force by police against protesting teachers in Ankara over the weekend, say papers. 'EU kept its promise and opened full membership talks with Turkey, and now it is Turkey's turn,' Rehn said. He noted that deficiencies in the implementation of reforms in Turkey are concerning. Rehn indicated that lawsuits filed against Turkish intellectuals such as Orhan Pamuk, Hrant Dink, Burak Bekdil, Ragip Zarakolu, Ibrahim Kaboglu and Fatih Tas constituted a violation of free speech and free press. He noted that Turkey should also eliminate discrimination against women, take positive steps regarding non-Muslim minority foundations, not impose restrictions on religious communities, and adopt a zero tolerance policy regarding torture. 'There is no shortcut on the road to the EU,' Rehn told Ankara. "Zaman" reports EU sources in Brussels as complaining that PM Erdogan and FM Gul had made no statements in support of freedom of expression. Meanwhile, the Chief of Turkish General Staff (TGS) Hilmi Ozkok warned yesterday that Turkey should not strive to join the EU at any price. 'Turkey must seek EU membership on equal footing and must avoid irreversible concessions,' Ozkok said.

**MFA Warns Kretschmer over Lausanne Treaty Remarks:** Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) Deputy Undersecretary Ertugrul Alpakon phoned EU Commission Representative Hansjorg Kretschmer to ask him to be more careful in his statements over possible amendments to the Lausanne Treaty, papers report. Atakan reportedly told Kretschmer that any amendment to the Lausanne Treaty is out of the question.

**Yerevan Rally to Protest Constitutional Changes:** About 5,000 demonstrators rallied in Yerevan on Monday to protest

President Robert Kocharian's government of rigging a weekend referendum that approved changes to the constitution, Turkish papers report. Western observers said the vote fraud had inflated the size of the 'Yes' vote. The election commission said 93.3 percent of polling stations had backed the changes, with 5.4 percent against. Opposition leaders at the protest called for Kocharian's resignation. Armenia's government has said that the changes to the constitution, including giving more power to parliament, were vital to bring Armenia into line with European democracies. The constitutional changes include reforming the judicial system, enhancing the powers of the prime minister, and allowing Armenia's large diaspora community to apply for Armenian citizenship.

Illegal Organizations Use Children in Their Protests: "Yeni Safak" criticizes fundamentalist and separatist organizations for using children at ages 7 to 15 during rallies. In a front page report, the paper blamed police for handing out to a group of children bubble gum and candy when they threw stones at another group of children supporting the terrorist PKK. The children had stoned a police station during a recent demonstration in the southern city of Mersin.

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AKP Municipalities Ban Alcohol: Prime Minister Erdogan rejected press reports that the municipalities held by the ruling AK Party are implementing a ban on alcoholic beverages, dailies report. 'We have not introduced such an implementation. According to Turkey's Constitution, the state is obligated to protect youth from alcohol addiction. Municipalities are state agencies. Municipalities issue licenses for tourism facilities, hotels, and restaurants where alcoholic beverages are consumed. If anybody is not given a license, they should come and see us. They cannot be banned. There is no sense in exaggerating the issue this much,' Erdogan said. Meanwhile, Deputy PM Abdullatif Sener criticized the AK Party municipalities that have banned the sale of alcohol, saying that such a move is hard to understand in the modern world.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Kurdish Reality in Northern Iraq"  
Hasan Cemal observed in the mainstream "Milliyet" (11/29): "Kurdish self-rule in Iraq, either as a federation or as an independent Kurdish state, serving as a model for Turkish Kurds is a source of anxiety in Turkey. The stage for a Kurdish state in northern Iraq has been set since 1992. A likely federation structure in Iraq could be a forerunner to an independent Kurdish state. According to the new Iraqi constitution, there is going to be a confederation where Kurds will be given self-rule as they have been doing since 1992. Kurdish leader Talabani is the president of Iraq, while Barzani, another Kurdish leader, has become the president of the regional administration of Kurdistan. Barzani has been traveling around the world, including Washington, London and Berlin and receiving presidential level treatment. Are we going to treat them like tribal leaders when they visit Turkey one day? I don't think so. The realities of life will prevail sooner or later."

"From Saddam to Barzani"  
Cengiz Candar asserted in the tabloid "Bugun" (11/29): "The new Iraq constitution has brought a loose federation model for Iraq. The approval of the constitution both legitimized and legalized the structure. In the loose federation model which is very close to a confederation, the northern part of Iraq is characterized as the 'Kurdistan Regional Administration.' And as part of this constitutional procedure, Barzani has gained the title of president of the regional administration of Kurdistan. Turkey has some options regarding this new Iraq. One option is not to

accept the new structure. Choosing this option will cause Turkey to be aiding in the division of Iraq. If Turkey accepts the new structure, Turkey will have to recognize Barzani in his new status and act accordingly. Turkey should abandon its attempt to shape its Iraq policy based on the pre-2003 structure. The policy should be based on the reality that the Saddam regime is now over."

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